

District Supervisor Election Scheduled for March 19, 2003

Clallam Conservation District will hold its annual Board of Supervisor election on March 19, 2003. The position of current board member, Steve Marble, is up for election.

To be listed on the ballot, a nominating petition, signed by 25 or more Clallam County registered voters, must be submitted to the Washington Conservation Commission, postmarked 30 days before the election. Nominating petitions for elected supervisors may be obtained by contacting the Washington Conservation Commission, PO Box 47721, Olympia, WA 98504-7721, telephone (360) 407-6215 or Clallam Conservation District, 111 East Third Street,

Room 2A, Port Angeles, WA 98362, telephone (360) 452-1912, ext. 5.

The polling place will be at the Port Of Port Angeles office, located at 338 West First Street, Port Angeles, and will be open from 4 to 7 p.m.

The CCD Board of Supervisors is comprised of five members, each serving a three-year term of office without compensation. Three of the board positions are elected by registered Clallam County voters. The other two positions are appointed by the Washington Conservation Commission. Matt Heins, Steve Marble and Joe Murray are the three elected supervisors. Nash Huber and Walt Forsberg are the two

appointed supervisors. The Board of Supervisor's meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 2:00—4:30 PM at the Clallam County courthouse.

District supervisors represent land users and the general public in directing renewable resource conservation programs. They identify local conservation needs, set goals and oversee the implementation of plans to protect soil, water, wildlife, and other renewable natural resources. CCD employs a five-person staff and administers an annual budget of approximately \$500,000.

For more information on District elections, please call 452-1912 ext.5.

Appointed District Supervisor Position Open

The appointed term of Walt Forsberg, is up in March 2003. This is one of five of the Board of Supervisors positions. All supervisors serve a three-year term without compensation.

If you are interested in applying for this appointed position, you may secure the "Recommended for Appointment Supervisor" Form X1 from the Conservation Commission, Olympia, Washington 98504-7721, or from the Conservation District 111 E. Third Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362. This form must be completed and returned to the Conservation Commission no later than March 1, 2003.

The Conservation Commission will appoint the position at their regular meeting in March 2003.

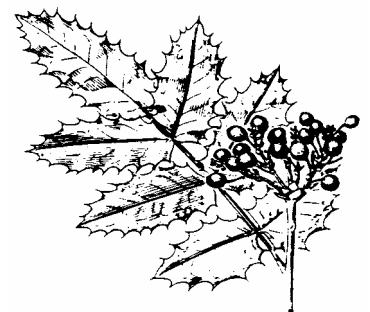
OTHERS AT CCD

In our Who's Who article in the last issue of Conservation News we neglected to include a couple of key members of our team: Conservation District Engineer, Rich Geiger, and Natural Resources Conservation Service Technician, Herb Klug. Although their offices are elsewhere, the work of these individuals is critical to the success of Clallam Conservation District's resource conservation programs.

Rich Geiger is a professional engineer who works out of the Mason Conservation District office in Shelton. He covers Mason, Kitsap, Clallam and Jefferson County conservation districts. Rich has an undergraduate degree in engineering from Gonzaga University and a MBA from the University of Washington. Rich is the project engineer for the Jimmycomelately Creek Project. This past fall Rich received

an award from the State Conservation Commission for his outstanding work.

Herb Klug works for the NRCS out of the Mount Vernon Field Office. Through a reimbursable agreement we have with the NRCS Herb travels to Clallam County to help design irrigation water conservation systems and to train District staff. Herb has over 30 years of irrigation system design experience. Last year Herb received statewide recognition for his work with our irrigators.



Native Plant Sale

Order your bare-root plants now for planting in early spring. Check out this newsletter for all the details, then fill out and mail the enclosed order form.

What, When, Where

- **What:** The CCD Native Plant Sale is our way of helping you plant more native trees and shrubs to replace or increase native plant diversity in our area.
- **When:** Order now for plant pick-up on Saturday, March 1st, 8am—noon. Any remaining plants will be sold that day also.
- **Where:** We will hold the plant pick-up and sale at the Lazy J Tree Farm barn at 225 Gehrke Road, just off Old Olympic Hwy between Sequim and Port Angeles.



UPCOMING FARM INVENTORY

The District currently has a Centennial Clean Water Fund Grant from the Department of Ecology to improve water quality of farms within the Clean Water District. (Bagley Creek to Chicken Coop Creek) this Winter and Spring.

Staff will be conducting Roadside surveys of farms located within the Clean Water District to assess water quality impacts and to evaluate resource conditions such as pasture, mud, and manure management.

The data collected during the inventory will be used to prioritize farms eligible for technical and financial assistance for livestock exclusion fencing, riparian planting projects, and alternative stock watering devices.

For more information please call 452-1912 ext 5.

GETTING READY TO PLANT

While preparing your native plant order, think about where you will be planting your trees and shrubs, and what you will do with the plants when you get them. If you order just one bundle each of three species you will have 30 plants to take care of on March first! Remember, these are bare-root plants that must be treated with care, preferably put back into the soil within a couple days of the sale.

Before you place your order you should make a plan so you can decide how much of which species to order. If you are planning a windbreak or hedgerow, it is a rather simple task to calculate the number of plants needed based on the length and number of rows in the planting. Windbreaks typically are made up of three rows of trees and shrubs, while hedgerows are generally comprised of one or two rows of shrubs. Tree spacing is usually 10-15 feet, and shrub spacing is 4-8 feet. These dimensions apply for other wildlife plantings, too.

Once you've planned the area to be planted and placed your order for plants you need to decide how you will plant. Will you put each plant into its final place immediately or put them into a temporary nursery bed or containers? We recommend containers or a nursery bed for the first growing season.

If you plant your trees and shrubs in their permanent locations, you need to start preparing your site now. If the area to be planted is unsuitable for cultivating in February scalp away any sod and dig your planting holes. When you pick up your plants you'll be ready to put them in the ground. Don't forget, all new plantings need supplemental water throughout the growing season until they are well established (2-3 years).

The district will be sponsoring a workshop for planting (see Calendar of Events on this page).

Would You Like To Help?

To help keep the prices low for our plant sale, we rely on volunteers to help us. If you would like to help the day of the sale (March 1st, 8am to noon) or to help organize and fill orders (February 22nd, 10am to 2pm), please call (360) 452-1912 ext.5.

Calendar of Events

Getting Ready To Plant Workshop February 1st 10:00 am—12:00 pm. Sponsored by the Clallam Conservation District to assist landowners in preparing their land for the plants purchased at the March 1 plant sale. Reservations are required. If interested please call 452-1912 ext. 5.

Siebert Creek Planting Party Saturday February 1st 10am-3pm.

Call Pacific Woodrush at 417-0980 for more information or email woodrush@earthlink.net

Visit our web site for more information on plants sold at this year's plant sale.

<http://clallam.scc.wa.gov>

NRCS UPDATE

Since Kerry Perkins' retirement in early July 2002, the Natural Resources Conservation Service Port Angeles Field Office has been staffed intermittently by Ken Drecksel, a NRCS Conservationist from Port Orchard.

The NRCS plan is to fill the vacant Conservationist position and add a Conservation Technician position for the Port Angeles NRCS Field Office. These positions are expected to be filled by the end of winter.

Landscaping Your Septic Drainfield

The combination of increased construction on poorly drained soils and advances in on-site sewage disposal technology is resulting in a proliferation throughout the county of what appear to be gigantic gravesites or perhaps ruins from an ancient culture. These mounds are actually septic system drainfields. As the number of mound systems increases, so do the number of questions about how to properly manage and landscape them.

The septic drainfield is where soil microorganisms treat the liquid effluent from your septic tank. Under proper conditions, greases and solid wastes are separated in the septic tank, and the liquid effluent is treated in the drainfield. When the system is functioning properly, the effluent safely contributes to the groundwater.

To function properly the effluent must trickle through the soil slowly and the drainfield environment must be healthy for soil organisms. A properly maintained septic tank will help ensure that the effluent is well distributed through the drainfield. A drainfield that can breathe (i.e., is not compacted, saturated, or covered by structures, paving, plastic, bark, or other mulch, dead leaves etc.) will provide a healthy environment for soil organisms. Plants help provide the best soil environment for a drainfield and enhance oxygen exchange and evaporation.

Clallam County Environmental Health offers classes on septic system maintenance (Septic 101 Clinics). Contact Janine Reed at 417-2593 for more information.

What Should I Plant Over My Drainfield?

Limit your selection of drainfield plants to those that have non-invasive root systems, are shallow-rooted and drought-resistant. Vegetables are generally not a good idea

because of the amount of bare ground and the need for cultivation. Definitely do not grow root vegetables over your drainfield.

The most popular thing to plant over a drainfield is turf grass. Grasses are a good choice because of their abundant, non-invasive roots and high evapotranspiration rates. However, turf over mound systems is difficult to mow and often grows patchy due to the uneven distribution of water throughout the mound (Once plants are established, irrigating over a drainfield is not recommended). Opportunistic, deep-rooted dandelions and other weeds quickly invade any exposed soil.

If you use turf over a drainfield, especially a mound system, use a drought-tolerant grass such as tall fescue. New dwarf tall fescues are low growing and require less frequent mowing.

Another good choice for mound systems is native meadow or prairie grasses intermixed with wildflowers. They don't require regular mowing, and if you use native species adapted to our climate they will do well without irrigation. The most common native grass is Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*). Commercial wildflower seed mixes specifically for the Pacific Northwest are readily available.

Although less desirable than grasses, other groundcovers such as kinnikinick (*Arctostaphylos*), wild strawberry, cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster*), periwinkle (*Vinca*), and common bugle (*Ajuga*) are suitable for planting over a drainfield. Weed control will be a challenge as these groundcovers get established.

Contact WSU Cooperative Extension at (360) 417-2279 for more information about suitable plants.

COST-SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH 2002 FARM BILL

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for 2003 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-share funding until February 14, 2003. Applications for EQIP funding are accepted continuously, however there is a cut-off date for each year's funding.

The EQIP Local Work Group for the Olympic Peninsula made projects that address water quality a top priority for funding. In addition, landowners may apply for these federal cost-share funds to address such environmental issues as forest road improvement, water conservation, fish migration barrier removal, streambank stabilization, and wildlife habitat enhancement.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts to obtain financial assistance for implementing conservation goals. Food or fiber producers and the NRCS work together to develop a conservation farm plan that addresses natural resource concerns. The producer selects conservation practices to implement from the alternatives developed with the NRCS. The program no longer requires a bidding process.

To apply or for additional information, please contact NRCS Conservationist, Ken Drecksell, at 360-337-4433 or Clallam Conservation District at 360-452-1912x5. For additional information on EQIP and the 2002 Farm Bill go to <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>.

Jimmycomelately Creek Realignment Project

Construction work on the Jimmycomelately Creek Realignment Project in Blyn has closed for the winter but will resume, through completion, from early May to late July. Clallam County is currently seeking more funding for the new Hwy 101 bridge to be constructed during winter of 2003/2004.

Just a reminder: the JCL Creek Realignment Project is located on private properties so access is not permitted without landowner consent.

Conservation Sponsors

Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society	Clallam County Department of Community Development
Friends of the Fields	Davis Sand and Gravel
McComb Road Nursery	North Olympic Land Trust
Clallam Cooperative Association	North Olympic Salmon Coalition
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe	

Clallam Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created to promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources in Clallam County. Public meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Clallam County Courthouse.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Murray, Chair
Nash Huber, Vice-Chair
Walt Forsberg, Treasurer
Matt Heins, Member
Steve Marble, Member

DISTRICT STAFF

(360) 452-1912 ext 5

District Manager: Joe Holtrop
Conservation Planner: Jennifer Coyle
Conservation Technicians:
Ali Tabaei, Rick Hollatz
Financial Manager: Laura Hall

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ken Drecksel,
District Conservationist
(360) 457-5019 ext 3

Conservation Sponsors

To defray the cost of publishing this newsletter, and to help support our ongoing programs such as the native plant sale, workshops and community education and outreach, the Clallam Conservation District is selling advertising space in the form of Conservation Sponsorships. For \$50 per year, your company name will be printed four times in the sponsor section of the newsletter, or for \$100 per year, your company business card will be printed once a year and your company name listed four times in the sponsor section. The Conservation News is published quarterly and is currently reaching 1400 households. Your support will help us reach more people interested in getting involved in local conservation efforts. If interested in becoming a sponsor, or if you would like to receive this newsletter, please call (360) 452-1912 ext. 5.

- ⇒ Landscaping Your Drainfield
- ⇒ Jimmycometely Creek Chan-nel realignment Update
- ⇒ Others at CCD
- ⇒ Sponsorship Recruitment
- ⇒ District Supervisor Election March 19, 2003
- ⇒ Important Sale Information
- ⇒ Plant Sale Order Form and

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
111 E. THIRD ST. RM 2-A
PORT ANGELES, WA 98362

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Port Angeles, WA
Permit No. 90

Plant Descriptions

Conifers

Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) Fast growing conifer will grow in all but the wettest and driest conditions. Grows 100 to 200 feet tall and prefers full sun.

Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) Popular Christmas tree with glossy dark green needles. Grows 100 to 200 feet tall and is shade tolerant when young. Dry to moist sites.

Shore Pine (*Pinus contorta* "contorta") Highly-adaptable to conditions ranging from saturated to excessively well-drained soils. Tolerant of salt and low nutrient conditions. Grows 15 to 50 feet tall and prefers full sun.

Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*)

Evergreen conifer with drooping branches and new growth at top of tree. Grows in deep, moist, well-drained soil, and requires high organic content in soil. Grows 100-200 feet tall and will grow in sun or shade.

Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

Useful on wet sites as it prefers moist soils and can tolerate saturated soils and seasonal flooding. Has very aggressive, fine root system and should not be planted near drain fields. Grows to 200 feet tall and will grow in full sun or shade.

Hardwood Trees

Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) Broad-leaved, deciduous trees grow 40-100 feet tall. Grows in lowland areas, usually in moist, well-drained soils.

Black Cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera trichocarpa*) Grows 100-200 ft tall. Moist soil. Full sun.

Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) Thrives on moist, disturbed sites. Tolerates drought, flooding or brackish conditions. Quick growth and ability to fix nitrogen in the soil makes these good for stabilizing disturbed soils and revegetating nutrient-poor soils. Grows 30 to 120 feet tall and will grow in full sun to partial shade.

Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*) Small tree growing to 25 feet tall. Becomes leggy in deep shade. In sun or partial shade it is more upright with multiple trunks. Produces better fall color in drier sites with partial shade.

Shrubs

Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) One of the first natives to put on leaves and flower in early spring. Deciduous shrub grows 5 to 16 feet tall. Flowers are good source of nectar for bees and other insects. Grows in moist to dry sites, full sun to partial shade, but prefers shade.

Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) Loosely-branched deciduous shrub which grows 5 to 10 feet tall. Has showy, fragrant, white flowers which appear in May. Grows in moist, well-drained soils to dry soils and prefers full sun to partial shade.

Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*) Thorny rose grows 2-8 feet high. Flowers are large (up to 3" across), pink to purplish. Grows in fairly dry to wet areas.

Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*) Deciduous shrub, usually has several, thin, main stems and grows to 15 feet tall. Flowers are profuse, white to cream. Grows in well-drained to dry soils.

Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquafolium*)

Evergreen shrub with multiple, erect stems and prickly holly-like leaflets. Grows to 5 feet tall with yellow flowers in clusters and blue-frosted berries. Grows in dry to moist, well-drained soil, in sun or shade. Makes good hedge or barrier. Flowers attract butterflies and fruit is eaten by birds.

Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) Very fast growing deciduous shrub has cascading stems that have soft, pithy centers. Tiny white flowers are packed into dense pyramidal clusters, and attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Red berries may cause nausea, but are a favorite food of birds. Dry to moist soils, full sun to partial shade.

Red Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) Deciduous shrub grows 3 to 12 feet tall with very ornamental red flowers. Grows in dry to somewhat moist areas, full sun to partial shade.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) Multiple-stemmed, deciduous up-right bush growing 10 to 25 feet tall. Fragrant clusters of white flowers appear in April through May and the fruits are coveted by birds. Full sun to partial shade. Very drought-tolerant.

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) Low-growing (2 to 6 feet tall) deciduous shrub with white berries in fall. Excellent for binding soil and forming thickets. Grows in dry to wet sites and takes full sun to partial shade.



Important Sale Information

Plants are from 1 to 2 years old and range in size from 8" to 2'. The plants are bare-stock (no soil on roots) with the exception of the Black Cottonwood which is an unrooted cutting (36" stem that sprouts roots quickly when planted). All plants are sold in groups of 10 of one species.

Once we receive your order, we will reserve your plants and send you a confirmation invoice indicating the total amount due. Please return your payment at that time. If we do not receive your payment we will not be able to save your plants for you. Additional information on picking up your plants will be included with your confirmation invoice. Orders will be taken until **February 14, 2003**. Please order early since quantities are limited.